

Abstract of the Disclosure

A method and system for providing enhanced services for a network. The enhanced services use information about the network which is available to a subnet of communicating processors (such as a set of routers), collectively executing a common distributed technique for disseminating that network information. The router subnet collects network topology information and provides a service using that network topology information, responsive to requests from non-routers coupled to the network (such as a set of host processors). The router subnet also collects information advertised by hosts coupled to the network, and disseminates that host information to substantially all routers, using the common distributed technique for disseminating network topology information. The host information may comprise information about server processes available at the originating host (such as what services are available and to which users those services are available), or may comprise information about client processes operating at the originating host (such as which users are operating those client processes and which services they desire).